

REMARKS

The final Office Action dated May 29, 2008, has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Applicants thank the Examiner for recognition of the allowable subject matter recited in claims 18 and 19 in view of all the references of record. Claims 2-7, 13-15 and 18-19 have been amended and claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 2-19 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7-8, 9-10, 12 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Allen, et al. (U.S. Pat No. 5,445,509, hereafter Allen). Additionally, claims 5, 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,210,141. Lastly, claims 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Consistent with that discussed with the Examiner in a previous telephone conference, and to further prosecution regarding the agreed allowable subject matter without delay, Applicants have amended independent claims 18 and 19 to remove the feature rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 in the Office Action. In particular, Applicants have removed the phrase “the removable connector positioned and configured to be removable in a vertical direction” from claims 18 and 19. *See Amended Claims.*

Additionally, dependent claims 2-7 and 13-15 have been amended so as to depend from the recognized allowable claims 18 and 19, respectively. As such, dependent claims 2-17 now depend from either independent claim 18 or 19 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims as well as the further patentable features recited therein. Accordingly, the standing rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same. However, if for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3128.

Respectfully submitted,
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